REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2005 in the application. Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 13, 15, 17-21, 23-25, 28, 31, 33 and 35-41 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-12, 18-30 and 36-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cragun, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803). The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 13, 14, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803) in view of Reber, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,595. The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 15, 16, 17, 33, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,803) in view of Schneck, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,498). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 36-41 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Independent claim 1 is directed to a web browser apparatus comprising image storing means for storing an input image of an inputted physical medium, the inputted image including an action identification code and a filled-in image, the filled-in image being filled in the physical medium by a user; action identification code analyzing means for analyzing the action identification code included in the input image stored in said image storing means, the action identification code being used for deciding a next action; action deciding means for deciding the next action based on the analyzed action identification code and the filled-in image included in the input image; obtaining means for obtaining web page data from a web server in accordance with the next action decided by said action deciding means; action identification code generating means for-generating an action

16

identification code based on the obtained web page data, the action identification code being used for deciding a next action; output image preparing means for preparing an output image including the generated action identification code based on the obtained web page data; and print controlling means for controlling such that the output image prepared by said output image preparing means is printed on a physical medium.

Independent claims 19, 38 and 40 relate, respectively, to a related web browsing method, web browsing program and storage medium having stored therein a computer readable web browsing program.

Independent claim 18 is directed to a web browser apparatus comprising obtaining means for obtaining web page data from a web server; action identification code generating means for generating an action identification code based on said obtained web page data, the action identification code being used for deciding a next action; output image preparing means for preparing an output image including the generated action identification code based on the obtained web page data; and print controlling means for controlling such that the output image prepared by said output image preparing means is printed on a physical medium.

Independent claims 36, 37, 39 and 41 relate, respectively, to a related web browsing method, a physical medium including an action identification code that is applied print control and printed by a web browser apparatus, a web browsing program and a storage medium having stored therein a computer readable web browsing program.

As specifically recited in claim 1, as amended, various important features of the present invention include (1) storing an input image of a physical medium, such as paper, that includes both an action identification code and a user filled in image; (2) deciding the next action based on such information; (3) obtaining a web page that corresponds to the next

17

25813/185/706137.1

PAGE 18/21 * RCVD AT 5/25/2005 11:39:16 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:212 575 0671 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-46

action; (4) generating an action identification code on the basis of the obtained web page; and (5) preparing and controlling the output by a printer of a physical medium, such as paper, that includes the generated action identification code.

In the office action, the Examiner relies upon Cragun, ct al. (Cragun) for allegedly disclosing the features recited in applicant's independent claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that Cragun does not disclose various features recited in cach of applicant's independent claims, as discussed below.

Cragun is directed to a method of retrieving information that is encoded on an object, such as a product purchased by a consumer. The product contains information in onc of three possible formats and using a scanner the information is read from the product. The scanned-in information then is converted into a URL using the conversion methods described in the patent (see col. 5, line 53 to col. 3, line 3). In addition to ascertaining the URL that is associated with the purchased product, information about the customer is obtained by scanning in the customer ID from a bar code on a customer card (see col. 7, line 60 to col. 8, line 5;). The discussion in col. 6, lines 36-44, pertaining to filling in data fields with customer specific information, relates to ascertaining pre-stored customer information upon identifying the customer by scanning in the customer card. After obtaining information about the customer (by scanning in the customer card) and ascertaining the URL that corresponds to the purchased product, information about the product is displayed on a display screen to the customer (sec col. 8, lines 6-30). The customer may interact with thc web page utilizing a computer in order for the customer to obtain further information (col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 16).

18

In view of the foregoing description of Cragun, it is seen this reference does not disclose each of applicant's claimed features mentioned above. In particular, Cragun does not disclose storing an input image of a physical medium, such as paper, that includes both an action identification code and a user filled in image. Instead, Cragun only scans in a code that relates to a product URL and, separately, scans in a customer card to obtain the identity of the user. Cragun thus does not receive or store an "inputted image" that includes both the action identification code and user-supplied information. Cragun also does not disclose deciding the next action based on the read information. Instead, Cragun provides information about the product, but no "next action" is decided based on the scanned in information (i.e., both the action identification code and the user-filled in image). Cragun further does not obtain a web page that corresponds to the next action. Again, Cragun simply displays the web page based on the decoded information.

Still further, Cragun does not generate any action identification code on the basis of the obtained web page. Rather, the web page is provided to the user. Moreover, Cragun does not prepare and control the output by a printer of a physical medium that includes the generated action identification code. With regard to these features, the Examiner refers to col. 4, lines 19-29 of Cragun, which sets forth that the input device can be a keyboard, keypad, etc., and that the output device can be something different than a display screen, such as a printer, etc. This disclosure in Cragun, however, still is insufficient to teach one of ordinary skill in the art that the printed output includes an action identification code that, in turn, may be scanned back into the device (or entered another way) along with user supplied information. In other words, the printed output of Cragun does not include any action identification code, as that phrase is defined in applicant's claimed invention.

19

25813/185/706137.1

From the foregoing, it is seen that Cragun does not disclose various features of each of applicant's independent claims. Thus, claims 1-12, 18-30 and 36-41 and not anticipated by this reference.

The features discussed above likewise are not disclosed in either the Reber patent or the Schneck patent, references relied upon and combined with Cragun for rejecting various dependent claims. Thus, the claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the combination of Cragun and Reber, as well as the combination of Cragun and Schneck.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. It is therefore requested that the rejection of claims 1-41 be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 790-9200.

Dated: May 25, 2005   Respectfully submitted,
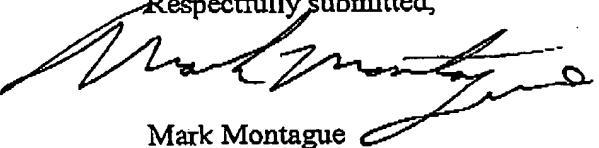
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20

25813/185/706137.1